

a salt thereof,
D1 wherein the α -fodrin or antigenic fragment has a molecular weight of from
about 2K to about 240K.

✓
Please cancel claim 25, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

--26. The method of claim 14, wherein the molecular weight of said α -fodrin or antigenic fragment is from about 100K to about 140K.

D2 27. A method for preventing or treating Sjögren's syndrome which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of
a mutein of α -fodrin,
an antigenic fragment thereof available upon proteolysis of α -fodrin with a protease,
or a salt thereof,
wherein the α -fodrin or antigenic fragment has a molecular weight of from about 2K to about 240K and wherein the mutein is immunochemically equivalent to α -fodrin comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1.--

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated September 9, 2002, claims 14 and 25 are pending and stand rejected. In the above amendment, claim 14 has been amended to delete reference to "mutein" of α -fodrin and "substantially similar" sequences from the claim. Claim 25 has been cancelled without prejudice. New claim 26 has been added, which is based upon old claim 18. New claim 27 has been added, which is directed to the muteins of α -fodrin. The new claims are supported in the specification and therefore do not add new matter. The above amendments have been made to expedite examination of this application.